

I believe that people should not be judgmental

"You can't judge a book by its cover." If I had got a dollar for every time I heard this, I would be rich. I understand why many people repeat the proverb over and over again, but how many of us actually practice it? I believe in seeing people in the same light and giving them fair chances.

I have to admit that I am guilty sometimes. Even when it comes to the simplest of things, I have yet to master the value of this proverb, like choosing a book. I would rather pick a book with a beautiful cover, compared to a book that has its corners bent.

I only came to understand the real value behind this proverb after having learnt it through the hard way. To be honest, I did not even know that I was being judgmental in the first place because it came naturally. When i was in a new class in primary school, we had got together in small groups to complete a small group project. It was awkward, to say the least. Then, a girl, who had her prefect sash slung proudly over her shoulders, stood up and started to give instructions.

"I think we should draw it like this," she said confidently, pencil pointing to the middle of the paper.

During recess, I was invited to join a group of girls from the group project to sit with them in the canteen. Finally! I'm being accepted!

"Don't you think that proud prefect is annoying? She's so bossy!" One of the girls exclaimed. I did not want to remain silent, fearing that my newfound friends would dislike me. Little did i know, she was sitting not far away and she could hear whatever we had said. That was when i saw her discouraged face and teary eyes.

I had not considered what it would be like in her shoes. It must have felt terrible, probably the worst feeling you could ever get when you know the people around you do not like you. I realised that maybe her actions were not even bad after all. The group did a pretty good job on that assignment that even earned us a few gold stars that would not have been possible without her leadership skills. I could feel my very own conscience berating me now for having hurt the feelings of a girl I hardly knew.

Later, I went up to apologise, feeling guilty and ashamed. After several conversations, I realised that she was not even near to what i had imagined. She was friendly and she turned out to be one of my good friends.

Perhaps even that tattered book could be the best book you have ever read. I believe that everybody should always be given equal chances and be treated fairly so that situations like these do not occur again. Through this experience, I have become more careful when meeting new people and not jump to conclusions on someone I hardly know.

(500 words)